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FRENCH WORDS IN LAȜAMON

In estimating the influence of French on English, various scholars have compiled lists of French words in early Middle English texts. Thus in *A Student's Pastime*, pp. 98–102, Skeat has a list of seventeen¹ French words in the *Laud Chronicle* (*E*), and of a large number in *Old English Homilies*, first series. For the *Ormulum*, see Kluge, *Englische Studien*, XXII, 179 ff.; for *Genesis and Exodus*, see Fritzsche, *Anglia*, V, 43 ff.

The number of French words in Laȝamon's *Brut* Sir Frederick Madden in 1847 roughly estimated to be, in the earlier text, less than fifty, "of which the later text retains about thirty and adds to them rather more than forty" (Vol. I, p. xxii). Madden's sub-joined lists make no pretense at completeness, nor are they wholly accurate.² His figures, however, seem to have been somewhat widely accepted as authoritative: cf. Green, *Short History of the English People* (1874), chap. iii, §1; Koch, *Historische Grammatik der englischen Sprache* (1882), Vol. I, p. 17; Jusserand, *Literary History of the English People* (1895), p. 219; Toller, *Outlines of the History of the English Language* (1900), p. 223; Brooke, *English Literature* (1901), p. 42. On the other hand, Skeat, *Principles of English Etymology* (1891), second series, p. 8, and Emerson, *History of the English Language* (1894), p. 162, give the number of French words in both texts as about 150.

The inaccuracy of Madden's statement was noted by Sturmfels, *Anglia*, VIII, 207 (1885), and illustrated by lists of words in Morris, *Historical Outlines of English Accidence* (1872), p. 338. These lists, however, even in the revised edition by Kellner and Bradley (1895), need considerable correction. One word, *tumbel*, does not occur in Laȝamon. The following obviously belong elsewhere: *avallen*=*afallen* < OE. *afellan*; *bolle*, 'bowl,' 14298 < OE.

¹ To Skeat's list should be added: *acordedan* (1119), *canceler* (1137), *duc* (1129), *sot-* in *sotscipe* (1131), *sotliche* (1137), *treson* (1135); cf. also *de* in titles (1104, 1106).

² One word, *haleweie* (l. 23071), Madden's own later etymology (Vol. III, p. 501) would exclude.

bolla; *iburned* < OE. *byrne*; *crucche* 19482 < OE. *crycc*; *ieled* 31941=*iheled* 29991 < OE. *gehælan*; *martir* is an OE. borrowing directly from Latin; so are *mile*, *munstre*, *muñt*, *must*, *nonne*, *pal*, *salmes*, *scole*; *talie* < OE. *talian*; *tavel* < OE. *tæfl*; *temple* < OE. *tempel* < Lat.; *tunne* < OE. *tunne*; *warde* < OE. *weard*. Moreover, Lazamon uses some twenty French words not recorded in the Morris lists.

In the interests of definiteness and convenience I have prepared the following new list, adding in parenthesis the French form from which apparently Lazamon drew, and appending references to lines of the text. The list is, I believe, complete; perhaps one or two words are open to question. Words marked with a star are not recorded by Morris; words and forms in italics occur only in the later (B) text. Abbreviations used are AF.=Anglo-French; BS.=Bradley-Stratmann's *Middle English Dictionary*; KL.=Kluge and Lutz's *English Etymology*; Mätz.=Mätzner's dictionary to his *Altenglische Sprachproben*; NED.=*New English Dictionary*.

abbey (*abbeie*) 29717, 29721.

admirail (*a(d)miral*, -ail) 27668, 27689.

**alaski*, 'release,' (*alaski(e)r* > Fr. *lâcher*) 8838.

anned, 'annoyed,' (*anuier*) 2259.

apostolie, 'pope,' (*apostolie*, not OE. *apostol*) 29614.

archen, 'ark,' (*arche*) 26, 8965. BS., KL., and Mätz. derive from OE. *earc*, an early common Teut. borrowing from Lat. The palatalized form suggests Fr. influence. This is the view of NED., which, however, admits that OE. *earc* may have > *arche* in some dialects.

**ariued* (*ariver*) 16063.

**ærmi* (*armer*) 15313, *armede* 8655.

(*h*)*arsun*, 'saddle-bow,' (*arçon*) 2263.

aspide, 'espied,' (*espier*, AF. *aspier*) 19737. Of Teut. origin, OHG. *spehōn*.

astronomie (*astronomie*) 24298.

atyr, noun (*atirer*, verb) 3275. Of Teut. origin (KL.); still doubtful (NED).

**Aueril*, 'April,' (*Avril*) 24196.

balles, 'balls,' 17443, 24703. Native Teut. (OE. *beallu; cf. bealluc) according to NED., which adds: "In the later ME.¹ spelling *balle*, the word coincided graphically with Fr. *balle*, 'ball, bale,' which has hence been erroneously assumed to be its source."

barun (barun) 16921, barunes (gen. sing.) 5319.

biclused, 8698, etc., is rather OE. beclȳsan direct from Lat. Forms in *u* are OE.; later forms in *o* (as in 8698 B) are due to Fr. (NED).

**bitraie* (-tra(h)ir) 8923.

**botten*, 'bats,' 21513, 21593. BS. derive from OFr. *batte* and KL., though mentioning OE. *batt*, prefer the same derivation. Skeat, *Notes on Eng. Etymology*, s. v., prefers Eng. origin and the plural in *-n* somewhat strengthens this view. Later forms in *-s* imply Fr. influence.

bunnen, 'boundary,' (bunne) 1313.

cacchen (cachier) 31501, cahte 4547, icaht 10843.

canele, 'cinnamon,' (canele) 17745.

canones (canon) 21861, 24289.

cantel-cape, 29749, an ecclesiastical garment mentioned in *Chron. E.* 1070. Cantel is OFr. *cantel*; cape in Laž., as shown by cope of the later text, is < OE. *cāpa=ON. kāpa; cf. next word.

cape, 13097, 29559, capen, 7782, 30849. The usual derivation from OFr. *cāpe* is doubtful. The form cope of the later text points unmistakably to OE. *cāpa=ON. kāpa. This > NE. cope, whereas Fr. *cāpe* > NE. cape.

**cardinal* (cardinal) 29497.

**castel* (castel) 188, etc.; frequent in earlier texts; probably for this reason omitted from Morris' list.

catel, 'chattel,' (catel) 30673; also in the form caðel 10023, 10261, through influence of ēðel; cf. aðel=ēðel 20201.

chagede (changer) 3791.

chapel (chapele) 26140.

cheisil, 'linen,' (chaisel) 23761.

**cheres*, 'countenance,' (chère) 18936.

cheuteine (chevetaine) 5879.

¹ Laž. is pretty early.

*clærc, 9899, etc., borrowed early from Lat., the forms later coinciding with those from Fr.

cloke (cloke) 13097.

conseil (conseil) 2324.

contre (contré) 1282.

coriun, 'a musical instrument,' 7002. Wace has corun, choron (Madden, III, 473).

cri (cri) 11991, etc., *cry* 27034.

crune (corone) 4251, etc.

cruneden (coroner) 31935, *icrouned* 892.

delai (delai) 17480.

**deolful* (doel-; -ful is Eng.) 6901, 11996.

dotie, 'dote,' 3294. KL., Skeat, and NED. explain ME. doten as = MDu. doten, whence according to NED. OFr. re-doter is borrowed.

dubben, to 'dub' a knight, (adober) 22497, dubbede 30105, idubbed 19578. Generally assumed to be Fr. (NED.); cf. Skeat, *Notes*, s.v.

duc (duc) 86, etc.

duszepers, *dosseperes*, 'the Twelve Peers,' (douze pers) 1622.

eastresse, 'territories,' (estre) 3583.

(h)æremite (eremite) 18763, etc., armite 18800.

*essel, 'bolt, bar,' (aisselle) 18992.

eyr ((h)eir) 8990, 23115.

failede (faillir) 2938.

*false (fals) 31550, etc., ualsest 30182.

falsie (falser) 23967, *faulsede* 30406.

*feste, 'feast,' (feste) 14425.

flum, 'river,' (flum) 542, 1299.

fol, 'fool,' (fol) 1442, etc.

folie (folie) 3024.

*gingiuere, 'ginger,' (gingibre) 17746.

ginnen, 'deceit,' (for engin = Fr. engin) 1323, etc. BS. compare ON. ginna, 'deceive.'

gisarme, 'halberd,' (*gisarme*) 1567, etc.
grace, (*grace*) 6616.
granti (*granter*) 14152, *grantede* 4789, etc.
guyse (*guise*) 19641.
gyle (*guile*) 3198, 16382.

**hardiere* 4348, **hardieste* 4181, 14470, comparative and superlative of *hardi* < OFr. *hardie*, which is of Teut. origin. *Hardeliche*, 1529, etc., given by Morris, may possibly belong here. Preferably, however, this word is derived, as by Mätz., from OE. *heardlice*. The forms in the later text result perhaps from a running together of Fr. and Eng.

hiue 790, apparently a ME. *ᾠπαξ λεγόμενον*. Madden, III, 447, equates OFr. *hui*, *huye*, and translates 'sound.' This explanation Morris seems to have accepted. Stratmann refers *hiue* to OE. *hēof* and Mätz., s.v. *hif*, follows Stratmann.

honure ((*h*)onour) 6084.
hostage ((*h*)ostage) 8905, etc.
hurtes, 'blow, injury,' (*hurte*) 1837.

ire, *yr*, adj., 'angry,' 18597. For *irre* < OE. *yrre*, possibly influenced by Fr. *îre* (whence NE. *ire*). Mätz. is doubtful: "afr. *ire*, oder steht es für *irre*, ags. *yrre*, woneben afries. *ire* sich findet?" NED. reports no occurrence of *ire* before 1300.

istored, 'stored,' (*estorer*) 13412.

kablen, 'cables,' (*cable*) 1338.

lac, 'lake,' 1280. NED. derives from Fr. *lac*; KL. pronounce it an early Lat. loan-word = OE. *lagu*, 'ocean'; Mätz. remarks: "wenn nicht, wie fr. *lac*, entlehnt aus lat. *lacus*, wenigstens unverwandt mit demselben, und später mit ihm zusammengefallen." Cf. also Skeat, *Notes*, s.v. *lake*. The word seems to be OE., the sense 'lake' to be Fr.

latimer, 'Latiner, interpreter,' 14319. Though Madden prints *latimer* in the text, he has *latinier* in the glossary, in the list of French words, Vol. I, p. xxii., and in a quotation, Vol. III, p. 354.

The OFr. word was *latinier*, later corrupted into *latim(m)ier* (NED.); an Anglo-Fr. form *latymer* is listed by Skeat, *Notes*, p. 420.

lauede (*laver*) 7489. OE. had *lafian*, which in ME. became indistinguishably confused with a ME. *lave* < Fr. *laver*.

**legat* (*legat*) 24501, 29735.

legiun (*legion*) 6024.

leon 1463, *liun* 4085, *lion* 4085 (*leo(n)*).

**lettre* (*lettre*) 4496.

licoriz (*lycorys*) 17746.

**lire* (*lyre*) 7003; *lire* occurs in Wace, 3767. From this passage *Laz.* seems to have taken over bodily *choron* (see *coriun* above), *lire*, and *satérion*.

lof, 'luff,' (*lof*) 7859, etc. Cf. NED. Skeat regards the word as Eng.; ME. *lōf*.

machunnes, 'masons,' (*machun*, whence Fr. *maçon*) 15465, 15478. Skeat suggests Teut. origin.

mahum, 'god, idol,' (*mahom*) 230, etc.

male, 'mail(-bag),' (*male*) 3543.

manere (*maniere*) 894, etc.

mantel (*mantel*) 14755, 15274.

marbre-stone (*marbre*) 1138, 1317. The forms *marme-*, *marmon-* of the earlier text are < OE. *marm-*, *marmon-*, borrowed from Lat.

maumet 29221 = *mahimet* 14585 (*mahumet*); cf. *mahum*.

messagere (*messagier*) 8299.

montaine (*montaine*) 1282, 25673 B.

nonnerie (*nonnerie*) 15642.

note (*note*) 7000.

olifantes, 'elephants,' (*olifant*) 23778.

paide, 'pleased,' (*paier*) 10535, *ipaid* 2340, 3265.

pais, 'peace,' (*pais*) 480, etc.

**paisinge*, 'peace' 11664.

- paise*, 'make peace,' 8783, 8839.
paradis (paradis) 24122.
parc 1432. OFr. *parc*, ultimately connected with OE. *pearruc*, 'enclosure,' (*Chron. A.* 918); cf. BS., KL., Skeat, *Principles of Eng. Etymol.*, I, p. 221, and NED.
passi, 'pass,' (passer) 1341.
pensiles, 'standards,' (pen(o)cel) 27183.
pilegrim (pelegrin) 30730, etc.
porses, 'purses,' (borse) 5927, occurs as early as 1050; cf. Kluge, *Eng. Studien*, XI, 65, 36, XXI, 335; and see *putte* below.
porz, 'ports,' occurs once in the phrase *porz of Spaine*, 24415. OE. *port* < Lat., influenced by Fr. spelling.
postles, 'posts,' (postel) 1316. Morris has only *postes* 28032 = OE. *post* < Lat.
pouere, 'poor,' (povre) 22715, *poure* 2565, etc., *pore* 22715, etc.
**prelat* (prelat) 24502.
**primat* (primat) 29736.
prisune (prison) 1016.
**priue-men* (privé) 6877.
processiun (procession) 18223.
**prude*, 'pride,' (prut) 11715, etc, *prute* 19409.
**prute*, 'proud,' 7682, etc., *proute* 8136, etc., *pruttest* 20870. Both noun and adj. occur in late OE.; perhaps for this reason omitted from Morris' list.
**purpras*, 'purples,' noun (purpre) 2368, 5928.
putte, 'put,' 18092, 30780, occurs as early as 1000 (KL.); apparently < OFr. *bouter*. Phonology similar to that of *porses* above.

riche 128, etc., a running together in form and meaning of OE. *rice*, 'powerful,' and OFr. *riche*, 'rich,' itself a borrowing from Teut.

riches occurs only in 8091 where Stratmann, *Eng. Stud.* III, 269, would read *rêchels*, 'incense' < OE. *rêcels*, *rȳcels*. So of course BS. This makes better sense than Madden's '*riches*' < OFr. *richesse*. Nor does *zeftes* of the later text give any help; that

seems rather=aððeles madmes of 8094. Rich- of richesse is of Teut. origin.

rollede (roller) 22287.

route (route) 2598.

salterium, 'psaltery,' 7001; adaptation of Wace's *satérion*; cf. s.v. *lire*, above; cf. OE. *saltere*.

sarui, 'serve' (*servir*) 3959, etc., *saruede* 4855, etc.

**scamoiene*, 'scammony,' (*scammonie*) 17741.

scapie, 'escape,' (*escaper*) 826, etc., also a fuller form, *ascapede* 1611, etc., *achaped* 18269.

scare, 'mockery,' 5835, etc.; BS. with query derive from OFr. *escar*.

scarn, *scorn* (*escarn*) 17307, etc. Of Teut. origin. *Scærninge* 2791.

scurmen, 'fence,' 8144, probably OFr. (Björkman, *Scandinavian Loan- Words in ME.*, p. 128); cf. Anglo-Fr. *eskermir* (*Skeat, Notes*, p. 454). Here seems to belong *sceremigge* 8144.

seælleð, as-'sail,' (*as-saillir*) 6146.

seine, 'ensign,' (*signe*) 9282; cf. OE. *segn* < Lat.

seint (saint) 32, etc.

seniht (*senat*) 25388.

senaturs (*senateur*) 25337, etc.

seruise (*servise*) 8071, 8097 B.

seruuinge 8097, 8114; cf. s.v. *sarui*.

sire (*sire*) 22485.

siwi, 'follow,' (*sewir*) 1387, *siwede* 16437.

soffri, 'suffer,' (*soffrir*) 24854, *isoffred* 6268.

sot, 'fool,' (*sot*; occurs in late OE.) 1442, etc., *sotten* 17309, *sottes* 21806.

sot-liche 1970.

sot(h)-scipe 3024, 23178.

**spiares*, 'spies,' (derivative of *espier*, which is of Teut. origin) 1488, etc.

**streit*, 'hostile' (*Madden*), (*estreit*) 22270.

sumunen, 'summon,' (*somoner*) 424.

timpe, a musical instrument, 'tympan' (Madden), 7003, = timpan 'drum' of BS.? Madden's reference to Roquefort, *Poésie Franç.* ed. 1815, p. 116, I have been unable to look up.

[*tr*]esur, 'treasure,' (tresor) 28834.

*trinetðes, 'Trinity's,' (trinité; cf. AF. trinitet, Skeat, *Notes*, p. 464) 29533.

truage, 'tribute,' (truage) 7189, etc.

tumbe, 'tomb,' (tumbe) 6080.

ture, 'tower,' (tur) 6056, etc., *tour* 19293, etc.

turne, 'turn,' (torner) 12734, *torne* 3069, *teorne* 25574, etc., *tornde* 46, etc., *torneden* 4586, *turnden* 1843, etc.; also late OE.

vrinal (urinal) 17724, 17727.

vsi, 'use,' (user) 10068, *vsede* 24293.

waiteþ (waiter) 23077.

*wasten (waster) 22575, etc.

weorre, 'war,' 170 etc., OFr. werre < Teut.; also as verb weorrede 20191.

ymages (image, AF. ymage) 18206.

SUMMARY.—Counting all the words in this list, we have in the A text of Lazamon, usually retained in B, 94 words of French origin; in the B text only, 64 words of French origin; a grand total of 158. From these figures, however, certain deductions are to be made: clære and porz are better regarded as OE. borrowings from Latin; in the case of balles, botten, cape, *hardeliche*, and ire, weight of evidence favors native origin; riches is possibly a corruption. Hence these more accurate totals: in A and B, 87 words of French origin; only in B, 63; in all 150.

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